

*The British Medical Association  
with the M.O.S.  
Compliments.*

COUNTY OF CORNWALL,

District No. 25.

**ST. IVES**

**URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.**

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**Medical Officer's Annual Report,**

**1895.**

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J. U. WHITE, PRINTER, ST. IVES.

THE ST. IVES  
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.*

*Gentlemen,*

*I beg to present the following as my Annual  
Report of the St. Ives Urban Sanitary District for  
1895,*

*And remain,*

*Yours faithfully,*

J. M. NICHOLLS,

M. O. H.

*January 25th, 1896.*

**1895.**

**St. IVES URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.**

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.**

Area, 1100 Statute Acres.	Population 1881, 6,445.
Density of population per acre, 5·87.	„ 1891, 6,094.
Emigrants, 58.	Immigrants, 117.
Estimated population, 1895 ... ..	6,464.
Inhabited houses, 1881 ... ..	1,483.
„ „ 1885 ... ..	1,523.
„ „ 1891 ... ..	1,478.

<b>Births</b> Registered, <b>174</b> (males 98; females 76).				
<b>Deaths</b> „ <b>129</b> (males 60; females 69).— <b>Natural increase, 45.</b>				
	1893.	1894.	1895.	
<b>Birth=rate</b> per 1000 of the population ...	29·37	29·53	28·55.	
<b>Death=rate</b> „ „ „ ...	18·87	21·82	21·16.	

**Classification of Ages of Deaths.**

	1 yr. & under.	1 to 5 yrs.	5 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 65 yrs.	65 to 80 yrs.	Over 80.
January ...	4	5	—	3	3	1	1
February ..	4	8	1	1	3	2	1
March .....	—	1	—	—	4	4	3
April .....	3	3	1	—	5	4	1
May .....	2	—	—	—	3	2	—
June .....	2	—	1	—	3	3	—
July .....	2	—	—	—	4	2	—
August ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
September.	3	—	1	—	3	3	—
October ...	1	1	—	1	—	1	1
November.	2	3	—	—	3	2	—
December .	1	2	1	—	2	4	—
	24	23	5	5	34	30	8

The births are 6 less than last year. The birthrate therefore shows a falling away of .98 from the rate of last year. The illegitimate births are 8 as compared with 7 last year.

The deaths are 4 less than last year, but exceed those of 1893 by 14. The 24 deaths of infants are less than 1894 by 9, but this improvement is more than lost in the second column of children from 1 to 5 years, where there is an increase from 11 to 23. (This increase was due to an epidemic of Measles early in the year and the large number of cases of Bronchitis and Pneumonia associated with it). The third and fourth columns show improvement, in the former from 10 to 5 and in the latter 6 to 5. The fifth column, devoted to deaths between the ages of 25 and 60 years, shows an increase of 8. Between 65 and 80 years there is a decrease of one, and over 80 years there were 8 deaths as compared with 15 during 1894.

The deathrate, although lower than last year, is still somewhat above the average for the last ten years.

In the following analysis of deaths, some marked changes from that of 1894 will be noticed.

1. A diminution in the number of deaths due to diseases of the Nervous System, from 25 to 14.
2. A considerable increase in the deaths from Respiratory diseases, from 24 in 1894 to 36. This increase is probably due indirectly to respiratory troubles following an apparently slight or previous attack of Measles, where there was insufficient evidence to certify Measles as the cause of death.
3. The increased number of inquests: 10 as compared with 7 in 1894, 2 in 1893, and 2 in 1892. Six verdicts were "natural causes"; two, "accidental drowning"; and two, "found dead in bed."
4. Two illegitimate deaths out of eight illegitimate births, compare very favourably with the five deaths out of seven births of 1894. Neither of these illegitimate children was insured.

Deaths from preventable diseases are about the same as in 1894, and are still above the average.

### Analysis of Deaths.

1893.	1894.	1895.	
17 .....	25 .....	14	deaths were due to diseases of the Nervous System.
11 .....	15 .....	15	„ „ Circulatory System.
21 .....	24 .....	36	„ „ Respiratory System.
16 .....	10 .....	6	„ „ Alimentary System.
3 .....	2 .....	5	„ „ Genito-Urinary System.
2 .....	8 .....	11	„ „ Lymphatic System.
11 .....	11 .....	11	„ Zymotic diseases.
15 .....	15 .....	10	„ Senile decay.
8 .....	10 .....	10	„ Marasmus.
9 .....	6 .....	1	„ Premature births and Malformations.
2 .....	7 .....	10	Inquests (deaths being either due to Accidents or Natural Causes).



8 illegitimate births and 2 illegitimate deaths.

Illegitimate birthrate, 1·31 per 1000 of the population, or about 1 in 22 of the births during the year.

Illegitimate deathrate, ·32 per 1000 of the population, or about 1 in 65 of the deaths during the year.

### Particulars of Illegitimate Deaths.

Date of Death.	Name.	Residence.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of death.	Feeding.
April 23 ..	W. P. H. .	Ayr-lane ..	Male ..	6 months ..	Pneumonia.	
May 5 ..	E. D. R. N. .	Fore-street ..	Female ..	9 months ..	Gastro-intestinal catarrh ..	Not nursed.

**Infant Mortality.**—24 deaths : deathrate 3·93 per 1000, or 137 deaths to 1000 births. A very great improvement ; better than for many years. There were 180 deaths to 1000 births in 1894, and 212 deaths to 1000 births in 1893. One hopes this improvement is not accidental, but that it is real.

**Zymotic Mortality.**—11 deaths : deathrate 1·80 per 1000 of population.

### Zymotic Death Analysis.

Measles.	Small pox.	Diphtheria or M. Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Fevers.			Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.			
					Typhoid.	Continued.	Peurperal.					
6	....	0	....	2	....	0	....	0	....	1	....	2

This is a very favourable mortality when we consider that 6 deaths were due to the epidemic of Measles ; and that no deaths were due to Typhoid Fever.

**Cancer Mortality.**—9 deaths (2 males and 7 females), being a deathrate of 1·47 per 1000 of population. The ages at death were :—20 months, 38 years, 48 years, 50 years, 50 years, 54 years, 62 years, 71 years, 80 years. This shows an increase of 2 deaths over those of last year.

**Phthisical Mortality.**—12 deaths : deathrate 1·96 per 1000 of the population. This is rather above the average of the last few years. In 1894 the number of deaths was 9, in 1893 10. In the majority of cases death was accelerated by bad and insufficient food and privation, and in some, exposure and overcrowding.

**Respiratory Mortality.**—24 deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia : deathrate 3·93 per 1000 of population. An increase of 5 deaths over last year, due as mentioned above to the epidemic of Measles.

### EPIDEMICS.

Only one disease may be said to have been epidemic, viz., Measles. A large number of cases occurred during the first three months of the year. The disease itself was of a mild type, but the time of the year favoured the supervention of bronchial affections, which produced a fatal result in six cases. The disease was so general among children that it was necessary to close the schools for a few weeks.

### NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.

During the year 44 cases of infectious disease were notified, making a rate of 7·22 per 1000 of the population. In 1894, 51 cases were notified ; and the previous year, 145 cases.

#### Analysis of Cases.

	Small pox.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Fevers.		
					Typhoid.	Continued.	Puerperal.
January.....	...	...	...	5	1	...	...
February ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
March .....	...	...	...	4	1	...	...
April.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
July .....	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
August .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
September..	...	...	...	7	4	...	...
October.....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
November...	...	2	...	3	1	1	...
December ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Total.....	...	2	...	33	8	1	...
Rate per 1000 of population.	...	·32	...	5·41	1·31	·16	...

Total cases notified, 44.

Total rate per 1000 of population, 7·22.

The above table shows at a glance when the notifications occurred. It compares favourably with that of last year. We have two cases of croup (associated with scarlatina) instead of four. No erysipelas. The same number of scarlet fever cases, but rather endemic than epidemic ; cases occurring in all but two months of the year, and all recovered. The typhoid notifications are higher, four occurring during September : all the cases recovered. With the exception of two occurring in one house, they were in different parts of the town.

Notices were again received from various Port Sanitary Authorities notifying the coming of seamen into this district after leaving vessels arriving from foreign possibly cholera-infected ports. No choleraic sickness occurred in the district.

In accordance with the cholera regulations, I boarded and examined all vessels arriving in the Bay from continental ports. I found no sickness, and the water supply and general sanitary condition were satisfactory.

### HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

These were made frequently, whenever or wherever required or thought desirable, especially when suspicious sickness occurred.

In all parts of the district the remarks of 1894 will apply again for 1895. Many properties show improvement, while others are not so satisfactory, notably one house near the Police Station.

The tendency to overcrowding is more marked owing to the insufficiency of smaller houses to meet an increasing demand.

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### THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Improvement is visible where the drainage scheme has been completed, and is especially notable on the Eastern side of the Harbour Beach and Wharf, and at Porthmeor. The portion of the Beach near the Custom House has been worse this year, not being drained as yet. I have pointed out the importance of draining this part without delay. It is the part which demands the earliest attention, for the smells during the summer are often abominable here, and without doubt very dangerous. It does seem strange that the most important part, in the proximity of so many dwelling houses and near the place where fish are sold and where so many people congregate and walk, should be so long without proper drainage.

The ventilating shafts for the drains laid down by the Town Council before the present scheme was undertaken, are not yet erected. These should have been completed long ago. No ventilation exists except through the small ventilating pipes at each house.

Again I have to complain of refuse and soiled water being thrown into the streets and courtlets, so polluting the ground.

The scavenging is carried out very satisfactorily as regards collecting refuse from the gutters and elsewhere; and the sweeping of the streets is generally fairly satisfactory.

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### SPECIAL SANITARY WORK.

A large portion of the scheme for draining the Town has been carried out, viz.:

The Back-road and adjacent streets by a sewer emptying itself on Porthmeor, near the Western side of the Island.

The Fore-street and Wharf and adjacent streets by a sewer carried through Smeaton's Pier, and emptying itself near Carn-crowse on the Eastern side of the Island.

Drains have been laid in Chapel-street, Gabriel-street, and Street-an-pol. These are united with the drains from the Terrace, Tregenna-terrace, &c., and passing down St. Andrew's-street, empty on the Foreshore on the South side of the West Pier.

The drain for the Western portion of the Harbour Beach is, I understand, about to be done.

The cost of these works is £6,740.



There now remain to be done : (*a*) draining Draycott; (*b*) the Stennack; (*c*) erecting ventilating shafts; and (*d*) erecting Latrines.

These will cost a further sum of £2,000.

The Stennack stream, which, becoming blocked, resulted in the flooding of the Town in November, 1894, has been widened and cleared. In three places substantial walls have been built to protect it, and the dam, which was washed away, has been rebuilt at a total cost of £50.

The following improvements have also been made during the year :

- 1.—Widening the street opposite the Western Hotel, by the removal of a dwelling house, purchased by the Corporation.
- 2.—Widening the road at the bottom of Barnoon-hill, the ground being presented to the Town by W. Trewhella, Esq.
- 3.—Repaving the Fore-street and Wharf.

84 notices were given to abate nuisances ; 17 were for defective sanitary appliances.

Pit and vaulted privies have been replaced by water-closets. The vaulted privies remaining are attended to, to the satisfaction of the Inspector.

**New Buildings.**—Although a number of new houses are being erected, no plans have been presented or approved of by the Authority, for the majority of them. There have been 31 houses certified as fit for occupation.

**The Scavenging.**—This is attended to by the contractor very satisfactorily. A number of people still seem unable to realise the advantage of allowing their house refuse to be removed by the cart. Many still persist in throwing it over the Wharf on to the Foresand (where the sea cannot reach it), near the footpath leading to Ayr from Chapel-street, into the Stennack stream, and in other places where it is an annoyance and a nuisance. Posted notices apparently have little effect in abating the nuisance.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The Report of last year will also apply to this year. During the summer the supply was only sufficient by cutting off the water during certain hours, and carefully collecting it in tanks.

**Burial Grounds.**—The Cemetery is in good order, but the time is getting near when it will be necessary to enlarge it. The Burial Board have taken steps to procure another field next to the Cemetery, which will considerably add to its acreage. Although the new ground is on the town side of the present Cemetery, the lie of the surface sloping away from all houses makes it perfectly safe as a burial ground.



**Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses.**—These are generally kept in good condition.

**Dairies.**—Number registered 52. *Cowsheds* 52. *Milkshops* 13. Mr. Bennetts, the Inspector, reports them as satisfactory.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

There have been no complaints of Offensive Trades.

Complaints are often made of manure piles being left insufficiently covered.

**Sale of Food and Drugs' Act.**—The Inspector reported 3 lots of fruit and 1 lot of fish as unfit for sale as food. These were condemned and destroyed. There have been no prosecutions under the Act.

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**River Pollution.**—During the year, especially in the summer, I had numerous complaints concerning refuse which had been thrown into the Stennack stream. This is done by people who have the refuse cart passing their doors many times during the day, on its way to the Town yard.

**House Refuse.**—The collecting of this is done satisfactorily. I have had no complaints of its being done inefficiently.

**Cholera.**—The Authority has continued its precautionary measures, and carried out the recommendations of the Local Government Board.

Limewashing and disinfecting have been done where necessary.

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**New Bye Laws.**—These, although completed and adopted by our Authority several years ago, are not yet operative. Why? I cannot say. This delay is unfortunate for the Town.

No Acts adopted during the year.

The Local Government Board have not requested any special report from me during the year.

I have prepared 13 reports in all: the annual for 1894, and reports monthly to the Sanitary Committee.

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**Disinfectants.**—Disinfecting has been done by the Inspector, and disinfectants provided free by the Sanitary Authority where necessary.

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### METEOROLOGICAL REMARKS.

I here append a Meteorological Summary for the year. It will be observed that the months from May to September show the greatest variations in temperature.

February was a dry but cold month, with predominating S.E. Winds. Measles occurring at such a time could not do otherwise than increase the Mortality.

The rainfall is about equal to the average yearly fall, but it will be noticed that after January the monthly fall was lower than usual, so that during the Summer some little anxiety may have been felt in regard to the water supply. The last 3 months register more than half the fall for the year. Although the prevailing winds have been Westerly, we have had more North-East and South-East wind than usual.

### Meteorological Summary.

Month.	Dry.	Wet.	Highest max.	Lowest min.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	Mean Barometer.	Rainfall.	No. Rainy Days.	Days Sunshine.	Wind.
Jan ..	43.40	39.80	51.4	27.2	6.50	43.10	29.83	6.02	25	27	W.
Feb ..	35.10	32.90	46.1	23.5	6.10	35.20	29.96	0.18	2	25	S.E.
March.	46.10	44.00	54.8	34.1	8.60	45.60	29.83	2.88	17	26	N.W.
April ..	48.60	46.40	59.3	38.8	8.40	48.60	29.65	2.03	12	25	S.W.
May ..	56.00	52.40	74.8	41.8	11.80	54.70	30.10	0.44	2	28	W.-E.
June ..	61.50	56.70	77.6	47.5	12.30	59.90	30.30	1.52	5	30	S.W.-N.W.
July ..	62.40	58.00	73.5	52.9	10.20	61.60	29.90	3.08	11	28	W.-S.W.
Aug ..	60.20	58.70	73.5	52.3	10.80	61.50	29.88	3.43	16	26	S.S.W.
Sept ..	60.30	59.80	75.8	50.5	11.50	60.26	30.12	0.16	2	28	S.S.E.
Oct ..	51.90	48.60	77.5	37.8	8.00	51.50	30.25	7.09	20	26	N.W.
Nov ..	51.40	49.40	61.0	40.4	7.20	51.10	29.47	6.41	18	21	S.E.
Dec ..	46.60	45.00	61.0	34.5	6.30	46.60	29.80	8.12	20	19	S.W.
Totals.	623.50	591.70	—	—	107.70	619.46	359.09	41.36	150	309	
Means.	51.95	49.30	—	—	8.97	51.62	29.92	3.44	12.5	25.7	

In conclusion, I would add that I hope our townspeople will assist the Sanitary Authority in their efforts to prevent sickness and disease, and remember what virtues there are in cleanliness.

**J. M. NICHOLLS,**

L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.,

F.R. Met. Soc.,

**Medical Officer of Health.**

January 25th, 1896.





